



EPD FACT SHEET

WHAT IS AN ENVIRONMENTAL PRODUCT DECLARATION (EPD)?

An EPD is a sustainability report card for a product, based on a 360° third-party green audit. Developed through the scientific process of Life Cycle Analysis following ISO guidelines and verified by an independent third party, the internationally recognized EPD is a single, comprehensive disclosure of a product's environmental impact – from its creation, distribution, and use to disposal.

MANY ENVIRONMENTAL CERTIFICATIONS EXIST, WHY USE AN EPD?

Environmental certifications, labels and claims abound in the marketplace, creating confusion among companies and consumers alike. As an objective document developed following ISO guidelines and full Life Cycle Assessment, and verified and registered by a qualified third party, an EPD provides complete, credible data and allows for a fair basis of comparison among products. An EPD is a comprehensive, internationally recognized report that compiles and standardizes technical sustainability information, eliminating the need to wrestle with a dozen or more individual documents. No other single certification or label combines all of these factors.

HOW DOES AN EPD ADD CREDIBILITY TO A MANUFACTURER'S PRODUCT CLAIMS?

Based on ISO 14025 standards, an EPD offers a transparent, comprehensive report on the full life cycle of a product – from raw material extraction to end-of-life disposal. Validated by a qualified, objective third party, an EPD can be used to substantiate marketing claims and enable comparison among similar products.

WHO BENEFITS FROM AN EPD?

Manufacturers: EPDs provide a quantitative and third-party verified description of the environmental performance of products, based on comprehensive life cycle assessment. They enable manufacturers to communicate proven, factual product and company environmental accomplishments in a transparent way.

Supply Chain: EPDs can be used as source information in the procurement and purchase of products or services. They provide buyers with the confidence of knowing that the environmental performance of a specific product or service has been reviewed and validated by an independent third-party with expertise in Life Cycle Assessment.

Consumers: An EPD enables accurate comparison among comparable products. It allows consumers to make informed choices using a single standardized, comprehensive, validated environmental report, instead of having to decipher multiple reports and labels.

HOW DO YOU CREATE AN ISO 14025 COMPLIANT EPD?

1. SELECT A PRODUCT CATEGORY RULE (PCR)

Find an applicable PCR for a particular product. In the absence of an applicable PCR, one must be developed and approved. PCRs describe the scope and methodology for performing the LCA and creating the EPD.

2. PERFORM A LIFE CYCLE ASSESSMENT (LCA)

Conduct a product LCA following the PCR and ISO 14040. A range of factors are used to assess a product's environmental performance, such as:

- Energy and Resource Consumption
- Pollutant Emissions
- End-Of-Life Disposal
- Waste Generation
- Impacts During Use Phase

3. CREATE THE EPD

Create a comprehensive report detailing the results of the LCA plus additional corporate sustainability and product performance information.

4. VERIFY

Complete a comprehensive audit of the EPD using a third-party organization such as PE Americas with expertise in product Life Cycle Assessment. Information included in the EPD is verified by a third party.

5. REGISTER

Submit the EPD to a chosen EPD Operator for registration. EPD Operators are third party organizations.

PARTNERS IN THE VETRAZZO EPD PROCESS

LCA Practitioner/Project Manager: MindClick SGM™

LCA Third Party Verifier: PE Americas

EPD Operator: The Green Standard

ACRONYM GLOSSARY

EPD: Environmental Product Declaration

LCA: Life Cycle Assessment

PCR: Product Category Rules

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